**BOOK ACTIVITY 5: DISCUSSION WEB (12 points)**

A discussion web teaches students to look at both sides of an issue before drawing conclusions. As explained by Donna Alvermann (1991), a discussion web provides ample opportunities for students to enrich and refine their understanding of what is read while working to view their own interpretation in light of other’s interpretations. In this activity, students first think individually, then they pair up with a partner to discuss further, and finally, they work in groups of four to share their decision (based on evidence) with the entire class.

For this activity, you will design the question and craft suggested answers for a Discussion Web about one section of the book *Pictures of Hollis Woods.* So, you will design the question (as a teacher) and craft suggested answers that you think students might include in their responses. Due to time contraints, you won’t have the opportunity to play out your ideas with a partner but you will go through the process of designing a good question. This activity could very well be one of the response activities you use in your lesson plan to scaffold discussion around the big ideas during small group or independent activities.

For this assignment, you will do the following:

1. Select a section of the book (1-2 chapters) and decide on one of the big ideas from this chapter. Craft a question or discussion topic and place this in the appropriate center box of the diagram. (2 points)

2. List at least three reasons for each “side” of the issue in “No” and “Yes” boxes of the diagram. The opposing issues might be framed as yes/no, pros/cons, or other appropriate two sides of the issue, so feel free to change the labels if better categories would fit. In these boxes, you might refer to certain segments of text that include important events or a character’s thoughts or actions to support your thinking about the “no” and “yes” issues. (6 points)

3. After weighing your ideas about both sides of the issue, come to a conclusion. State your conclusion in a way that answers the discussion question succinctly. (1 point)

4. In the “Explanation” box, provide at least two explanations that support your conclusion. Write these explanations in complete sentences to justify your decision. (3 points)

YES (reasons)

DISCUSSION WEB QUESTION:

EXPLANATION:

CONCLUSION

NO (reasons)